

EXHIBIT: IV.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: December 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Review Team Report Concerning the Application for Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by The Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts to Award the Doctor of Visual Arts Degree.

BACKGROUND: 20-A MRSA, §10704 provides that any educational institution may confer certain degrees if it has been granted initial authority by an Act of the Legislature. Under Chapter 149 CMR, the Maine State Board of Education is required to make a recommendation for action on any initial degree authorization request to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Officials of the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, located in Portland, Maine, submitted an application seeking authority to confer the initial degree of Doctor of Visual Arts. The application calls for the institute to be based in Portland, with instructional sites located in Tuscany, Italy and in New York City. A program approval visit with the applicant and the Institute's Board of Trustees was conducted in Portland on September 7, 2006.

Following the program review a report was prepared which includes the review team findings as well as a recommendation for State Board action. With affirmative action by the Board this request would be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs for Legislative consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the report of the review team and support the conveyance of the request from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts to confer the degree of Doctor of Visual Arts to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs for its deliberation and subsequent Legislative action.

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